

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /091 W  
-----008067 031810Z /53

R 031220Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6771  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1060

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, WB, UR, GW  
SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN MEDIA PLAYS UP POSSIBLE STOBBE-BREZHNEV  
MEETING

SUMMARY: WEST BERLIN PRESS CONTINUES TO PLAY UP IMPORTANCE OF  
BERLIN AND ROLE OF GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE IN FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV  
VISIT IN BONN. SENAT OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO ADVISE US, HOWEVER,  
THAT THEY EXPECT NO CONCRETE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT  
TO BERLIN. OVER-EXAGGERATED PRESS SPECULATION COULD LEAD TO  
POST-VISIT DISAPPOINTMENT IN BERLIN IF NOTHING POSITIVE COMES  
FROM BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT TALKS. END SUMMARY

1. INDEPENDENT BUT SENSATIONALISTIC WEST BERLIN DAILY, DER  
ABEND, HEADLINED MAY 2 THAT MERLIN'S GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE "WILL  
MEET BREZHNEV" IN BONN MAY 5. BURIED IN TEXT OF ARTICLE IS REPORT  
THAT STOBBE HAS BEEN INVITED AS GUEST TO FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S  
OFFICIAL DINNER FOR BREZHNEV, AND THAT A MEETING MAY TAKE  
PLACE AT THAT TIME.

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2. SENAT PRESS OFFICE IS DOING NOTHING TO PLAY DOWN  
STORY WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT RADIO COVERAGE  
IN BERLIN. SENIOR SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS HAVE AD-  
MITTED TO US, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS STORIES ARE  
OVERDONE AND ARE BASED ON THE PRESUMPTION THAT STOBBE  
MIGHT HAVE A MOMENT'S CONVERSATION WITH BREZHNEV ON THE

MARGIN OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S DINNER. SENAT OFFICIALS  
TOLD US THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO RPT NO PLANS FOR A FACE-  
TO-FACE DISCQSSION BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND STOBBE.

3. ASKED ABOUT FURTHER PRESS REPORTS WHICH CLAIM THAT  
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL RAISE SPECIFIC BERLIN QUESTIONS  
WITH BREZHNEV, SENAT OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT  
PRESENT PLANS REMAIN TO ADDRESS THE BERLIN QUESTION IN  
GENERAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT  
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL SEEK TO RESURRECT YET AGAIN THE  
LONG DORMANT IF NOT DEAD KALININGRAD POWER PLANT PROJECT.

4. COMMENT: BERLIN PRESS HAS GIVEN VERY PROMINENT  
COVERAGE TO FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT AND HAS  
EXAGGERATED SOMEWHAT IMPORTANCE OF BERLIN FOR THE TALKS. WE  
GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SENAT PRESS OFFICE HAS  
ALLOWED THE BERLIN PRESS TO RUN WITH THE STORY THAT  
BERLIN WILL PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE TALKS IN AN EFFORT  
TO BUILD UP THEIR MAN (STOBBE). INTERSPERSED IN ALL THE  
ARTICLES, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN THE FACTUAL WARNING THAT NO PROGRESS  
IS EXPECTED IN ANY SPECIFIC BERLIN TOPIC, AND TODAY'S  
PRESS REPORTS THAT THE "BERLIN FORMULA" TO BE INCLUDED  
IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WILL NOT VARY ONE WORD FROM  
WHAT WAS SAID AT THE END OF BREZHNEV'S 1973 VISIT IN  
BONN. WE CAN WRITE OFF THE NATURE OF BERLIN PRESS  
SPECULATION ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT AS BEING AN  
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EXCELLENT REFLECTION OF THIS CITY'S CONTINUED TENDENCY  
TO SEE ITSELF AS THE NAVEL OF THE WORLD. WE HOPE THE  
RESULTS OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT WILL NOT COME AS TOO MUCH  
OF A DISAPPOINTMENT. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** WEST BERLIN MEDIA PLAYS UP POSSIBLE STOBBE-BREZHNEV MEETING SUMMARY: WEST BERLIN PRESS CONTINUES TO PLAY UP IM  
**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, WB, UR, GE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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